



Elliott brings together local and regional food programs

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EDITORS NOTE: This is one of a series of features highlighting DATCP employees and the programs they work in.

MADISON – Sarah Elliott will be the first to tell you there is some amazing work going on with local and regional foods programming in Wisconsin. Her job with the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) is to bring it all together starting with Wisconsin Farm to School.

“You can sense the excitement about local foods coming from organizations and communities, and I am really happy to be here at a time when there is so much brewing at the regional and state level,” said Elliott. “There is so much potential for Farm to School to provide tremendous benefits to our farmers and school children, and I am so delighted to be a part of making that happen.”

Elliott began her job as an Agriculture Program Supervisor in late July. Before coming to DATCP, she was most recently the Farm to School Program Manager for REAP Food Group in Madison. In this position, she was responsible for supervising a team of five people and implementing Farm to School programming for the Madison Metropolitan School District.

It was a natural fit for Elliott to come to DATCP where she will spend time coordinating the statewide effort for Farm to School. Elliott has begun to reach out to stakeholders to assess existing Farm to School activities and form a cohesive statewide approach.

“There are so many passionate, talented people working on all aspects of Farm to School,” explained Elliott. “With strong collaboration, Wisconsin is poised to be a Farm to School leader, which will ultimately benefit Wisconsin farmers.”

Elliott plans to form a unified Farm to School vision and brand for the state. By better understanding the individual goals of Farm to School programs, she hopes to form a shared evaluation system to measure the collective impact of the state’s efforts and allow for the successes to be duplicated.

“Farm to School has great potential to not only train the next generation of eaters, teaching students where their food comes from and how to make healthy choices, but also provides a great market opportunity for our state’s farmers,” added Elliott. “In this role, I will focus on Farm to School and explore ways to coordinate with DATCP’s other local and regional services.”

Elliott will also provide direction to DATCP’s additional marketing efforts. She will help guide the future development of the Buy Local, Buy Wisconsin and the Something Special *from Wisconsin*™ programs.

“Sarah will serve multiple roles at DATCP, leading the local and regional foods programming, managing the statewide Farm to School and being a member of our division management team,” said Jen Pino-Gallagher, DATCP’s Bureau Director of Agricultural Market Development. “I am thrilled to have Sarah at DATCP as she brings a perfect combination of strategic planning and implementation skills as well as deep knowledge and understanding of food production and distribution.”



Sarah Elliott is DATCP’s Agriculture Program Supervisor for local and regional programming.

Elliott has a master's degree in urban and regional planning from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a bachelor's degree in environmental studies from the University of North Carolina-Asheville. She gained additional experience working as community planner and as an organic farm employee.

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